

Europäisches Patentamt
European Patent Office
Office européen des brevets



(11) EP 1 439 507 A3

(12)

EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION

(88) Date of publication A3:
09.03.2005 Bulletin 2005/10

(51) Int Cl.7: G07F 17/32

(43) Date of publication A2:
21.07.2004 Bulletin 2004/30

(21) Application number: 04000730.4

(22) Date of filing: 15.01.2004

(84) Designated Contracting States:
AT BE BG CH CY CZ DE DK EE ES FI FR GB GR
HU IE IT LI LU MC NL PT RO SE SI SK TR
Designated Extension States:
AL LT LV MK

(72) Inventor: Pryzby, Eric M.
Skokie IL 60077 (US)

(74) Representative: Grünecker, Kinkeldey,
Stockmair & Schwanhäusser Anwaltssozietät
Maximilianstrasse 58
80538 München (DE)

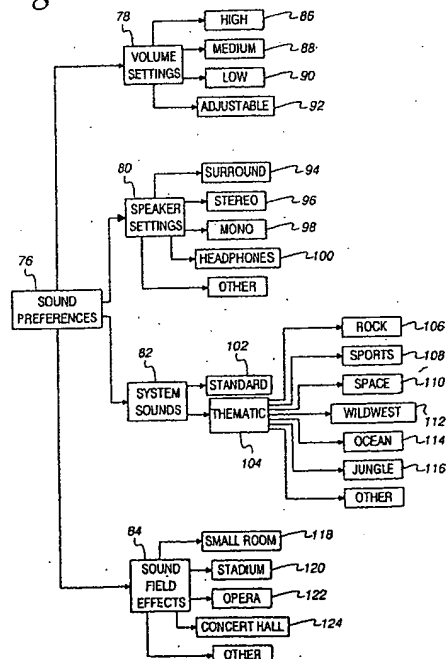
(30) Priority: 16.01.2003 US 342809

(71) Applicant: WMS Gaming Inc
Waukegan, IL 60085 (US)

(54) Selectable audio preferences for a gaming machine

(57) A wagering gaming system comprises a gaming terminal and a sound processing system. The gaming terminal conducts a wagering game and the player is allowed to select sound preferences in connection with the wagering game. The sound processing system is adapted to process audio data in response to user selections of sound preferences other than a master volume preference. According to some embodiments, a user is able to make selections regarding sound aspects such as speaker settings, system sounds, sound field effects, and sound tones.

Fig.4



EP 1 439 507 A3



European Patent
Office

EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 04 00 0730

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.7)
X	US 2002/142846 A1 (PAULSEN) 3 October 2002 (2002-10-03)	1-3, 6-15, 32-34, 37-42	G07F17/32
Y	* paragraphs [0044] - [0051], [0097] - [0099], [0104]; figures 1a-5 *	4,5,35, 36	
Y	US 2001/024971 A1 (BROSSARD) 27 September 2001 (2001-09-27)	4,5,35, 36	
A	* paragraphs [0023] - [0025], [0030] - [0032], [0047]; figures 1-8 *	1,32	
X	US 6 110 041 A (WALKER ET AL.) 29 August 2000 (2000-08-29)	1,2, 11-13, 32-35	
A	* column 3, line 28 - line 54 * * column 5, line 6 - column 7, line 24; figures 1-3 *	3-10,14, 15	
X	US 5 816 918 A (KELLY ET AL.) 6 October 1998 (1998-10-06) * column 13, line 21 - line 36 * * column 7, line 33 - column 8, line 18; figures 1-4 *	1,32	TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.7) G07F
X	WO 02/24288 A (INTERNATIONAL GAME TECHNOLOGY) 28 March 2002 (2002-03-28)	1,32	
A	* page 6, line 6 - page 20, line 6; figures 1-3 *	2-15, 33-42	
A	US 2002/090990 A1 (JOSHI ET AL.) 11 July 2002 (2002-07-11) * paragraphs [0033] - [0101]; figures 1-12 *	1,32	
----- -/--			
-The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search The Hague		Date of completion of the search 11 October 2004	Examiner Rivero, C
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document		T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document	

1
EPO FORM 150 (03.02) (P4/C01)



European Patent
Office

EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 04 00 0730

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.7)
A	<p>EP 1 041 525 A (KONAMI CO., LTD.) 4 October 2000 (2000-10-04) * paragraphs [0054] - [0163]; figures 1-16 * -----</p>	1,32	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.7)
<p>The present search report has been drawn up for all claims</p>			
1	Place of search The Hague	Date of completion of the search 11 October 2004	Examiner Rivero, C
<p>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</p> <p>X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : Intermediate document</p> <p>T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons ----- & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document</p>			

EPO FORM 1503 03 02 (P04001)



European Patent
Office

Application Number

EP 04 00 0730

CLAIMS INCURRING FEES

The present European patent application comprised at the time of filing more than ten claims.

- ☐ Only part of the claims have been paid within the prescribed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for the first ten claims and for those claims for which claims fees have been paid, namely claim(s):
- ☐ No claims fees have been paid within the prescribed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for the first ten claims.

LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION

The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:

see sheet B

- ☐ All further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for all claims.
- ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, the Search Division did not invite payment of any additional fee.
- ☐ Only part of the further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the inventions in respect of which search fees have been paid, namely claims:
- ☒ None of the further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the invention first mentioned in the claims, namely claims:

1-15, 32-42

European Patent
OfficeLACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION
SHEET B

Application Number

EP 04 00 0730

The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:

1. claims: 1-15 32-42

An electronic gaming system and method of operation having a gaming terminal, a user input device allowing for selection of at least one sound preference other than a master sound preference, a sound processing system accepting the user input device instructions and an audio-emitting system

2. claims: 16-17

An electronic gaming system having a sound processing system adapted to process game sounds relating to said game, an input system adapted to accept sound preferences including inputs for controlling aspects of said game sounds, said sound preferences including a first class of sound preferences being controllable by the player and a second class of preferences being controlled by an operator

3. claims: 18-31 44-47

An electronic gaming system comprising a gaming terminal, a central processing unit, a memory coupled to said central processing unit storing audio data, a user input device, and a sound processing system receiving said audio data in a first audio signal, said sound processing system modifying said audio data in accordance with sound preferences to produce a second audio signal

4. claim: 43

An electronic gaming machine comprising a processor for randomly selecting one of a plurality of outcomes in response to a wager, an input system receiving sound data associated with audio characteristics of only selected frequencies within a frequency range of about 20 Hz to about 20 kHz, and a sound processing system capable of altering the selected frequencies of an audio output in response to said input system receiving sound inputs

**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.**

EP 04 00 0730

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report. The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on The European Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

11-10-2004

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
US 2002142846 A1	03-10-2002	EP 1417653 A2	12-05-2004
		WO 02077935 A2	03-10-2002
		US 2002142825 A1	03-10-2002
		US 2005003883 A1	06-01-2005
US 2001024971 A1	27-09-2001	US 6302790 B1	16-10-2001
		AU 763125 B2	10-07-2003
		AU 5268799 A	06-04-2000
		CA 2283955 A1	05-04-2000
		EP 1000642 A2	17-05-2000
US 6110041 A	29-08-2000	US 6293866 B1	25-09-2001
		US 2002013173 A1	31-01-2002
US 5816918 A	06-10-1998	AU 2439097 A	29-10-1997
		EP 0904140 A1	31-03-1999
		TW 466123 B	01-12-2001
		US 6007426 A	28-12-1999
		US 2002068622 A1	06-06-2002
		WO 9737737 A1	16-10-1997
		US 2003027630 A1	06-02-2003
		US 6645068 B1	11-11-2003
		US 2002077169 A1	20-06-2002
		US 6293865 B1	25-09-2001
		US 6454648 B1	24-09-2002
		US 6306035 B1	23-10-2001
		US 2002010025 A1	24-01-2002
		US 6015344 A	18-01-2000
WO 0224288 A	28-03-2002	AU 9089001 A	02-04-2002
		WO 0224288 A2	28-03-2002
US 2002090990 A1	11-07-2002	US 2002039919 A1	04-04-2002
		CA 2396858 A1	03-02-2003
		EP 1283508 A2	12-02-2003
		AU 7736901 A	11-04-2002
		CA 2358178 A1	04-04-2002
		EP 1195730 A2	10-04-2002
		ZA 200206185 A	10-02-2004
		US 2002151349 A1	17-10-2002
		US 2003100359 A1	29-05-2003
		US 2004147307 A1	29-07-2004
EP 1041525 A	04-10-2000	JP 2000288238 A	17-10-2000
		AU 757506 B2	20-02-2003

EPO FORM P0459

For more details about this annex : see Official Journal of the European Patent Office, No. 12/82

ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.

EP 04 00 0730

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report.
The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on
The European Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

11-10-2004

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
EP 1041525	A	EP 1041525 A2	04-10-2000
		TW 504397 B	01-10-2002
		US 6676514 B1	13-01-2004

EPO FORM P0459

For more details about this annex : see Official Journal of the European Patent Office, No. 12/82